

Business Area # 9:**Porter Square/ North Cambridge**

Boundaries: bordered by the B&M Railroad, Alewife Brook Parkway, and the Somerville Line

Major areas of Business/Retail/Industrial concentrations include: all retail and commercial establishments between 1840 Massachusetts Avenue and the Arlington line, including Porter Square Mall. All commercial properties along Rindge and Sherman to the border of the RR tracks



Porter Square

For the third consecutive year the **commercial burglary** total in the Porter Square business district remained unchanged and that statistic translates into good news. Throughout the decade of the 1990s, Porter Square had been hit with at least two high profile clusters of commercial breaks each year. This trend was reversed in 1999 when a 56% decrease in breaks was recorded. Since that dramatic drop, commercial breaks have stabilized at a total of 15 per year. Four of the ten commercial breaks in this business district over the final six months of 2002 were along Rindge Ave. No linkage could be established to forced entries on Rindge Ave at a youth center, auto service shop, a medical office and a warehouse. The breaks were crude and unprofessional and most likely the work of juveniles. • Two of the three **commercial robberies** in Business District #9 were on back-to-back days in early September. A suspect who implied he had a gun robbed a bank in the 2300 block of Mass Ave. Twenty-four hours later, and a few blocks further along Mass Ave, a gun-wielding suspect robbed a gas station. Both cases are still under investigation. • **Shoplifting** increased by three incidents in Porter Square in 2002. As in Central Square, a high percentage of the shoplifting arrests are of the homeless in grocery and drug stores. • Twenty additional **larcenies from the buildings** were recorded here in 2002. During the first two quarters of the year, thefts from classrooms in area schools were propelling the increase in this larceny type. Over the final six months of 2002, a pattern of thefts of employee's property from specialty stores between 2000 and 2100 Mass Ave was identified. • The long-standing pattern of pickpockets targeting distracted shoppers in Porter Square super markets continues to flourish. This pattern accounts for over 75% of the **larceny from the person** in this business district each year. •

CRIME	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Larceny from Building	37	26	30	23	37
Larceny from Person	18	11	24	28	24
Commercial Burglary	52	23	15	15	15
Commercial Robbery	1	3	2	3	4
Shoplifting	27	35	24	27	31
Fraud/Flim	27	19	21	26	34

Flam/Counterfeiting					
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